

ance to the United States, set forth in the first article in this Constitution.

Sec. 47. The General Assembly shall have power to accept the cession of any territory contiguous to this State from the States of Virginia and West Virginia, or from the United States, with the consent of Congress and of the inhabitants of such ceded territory; and in case of such cessions, the General Assembly may divide such territory into counties, and shall provide for the representation of the same in the General Assembly, on the basis fixed by this Constitution, and may for that purpose increase the number of Senators and Delegates. And the General Assembly shall enact such laws as may be required to extend the Constitution and Laws of this State over such territory, and may create Courts conformably to the Constitution for such territory, and may, for that purpose, increase the number of Judges of the Court of Appeals.

Mr. SCHLEY. For the most part the committee on the legislative department are agreed upon this report. There was some diversity of opinion upon several of the sections, and I request leave for the minority to submit a minority report, should they desire at any time to do so, as to the sections to which they object.

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS—ALLEGIANCE.

The Convention proceeded to the consideration of the order of the day, being the second reading of the fourth article of the Declaration of Rights, as follows:

"Article 4. The Constitution of the United States, and the laws made in pursuance thereof, being the supreme law of the land, every citizen of this State owes paramount allegiance to the Constitution and Government of the United States, and is not bound by any law or ordinance of this State in contravention or subversion thereof."

The pending question was the amendment offered by Mr. Briscoe, to strike out the word "paramount."

Mr. KENNARD. As there appears to be no disposition on the part of gentlemen to occupy the attention of the Convention in the further discussion of this question, I will submit a few remarks for their consideration. It is fair to conclude that by this time we have arrived at the full heat of the battle in the discussion of this question. It was remarked by a member from Somerset, (Mr. ———,) at the inception of this debate, after the first speech had been made, occupying the attention of this body for a considerable length of time, that that was merely the introductory debate; that we had seen but the skirmish; that the contest had not attained to its highest fury, and that when that time arrived we would see an exhibition of strength in point of logical controversy, to which we had theretofore been strangers. The noble county of

Prince George's had the honor to furnish the first gallant knight to throw down the glove, and with spear and lance to begin the assault. Since that time, gentlemen of other counties have announced that that was but introductory. The noble county of Somerset has furnished two noble knights; and it is fair to presume now that the contest has attained its fullest height. I am inclined to the opinion that the fury of the strength has expended itself to a great extent, and that by the time that Baltimore city, represented by the chairman of the Committee on the Declaration of Rights, (Mr. Stirling,) shall give the *coup de grace* to the discussion of this question, the State of Maryland will emerge from the cloud and the smoke of this contest more splendidly adorned than before, having upon her frontlets a jewel which heretofore has not been there, which will do her honor and add to her historic renown.

I did not intend to submit any remarks to the consideration of the Convention upon the article now under consideration, for the reason that my impression was that the passing moments of the hour bore in their train momentous issues. Time bears upon its shoulders the weight of many years; and we may not now in this hour of peril and of imminent danger, play in dalliance with fleeting moments. He who would be wise will not tarry upon the margin of the stream when its currents dash onward, bearing upon its bosom the fate of nations. He who would be wise will hearken, and heed the call of the hour, and act with promptitude and despatch, when demands are made upon him. The admonition now sounding in our ears, coming with such terrific force, with such impressive lessons, are not the admonitions of days or of hours, but of moments. Impressed with such views, I thought it better became me to be silent, to utter no opinion respecting this article, but to let my recorded vote in favor of it be my sufficient answer. But I have been induced to change my determination in that respect.

The discussion of this question has opened up before us a wide field of debate. It is seemingly illimitable. Gentlemen have been wont to go wherever the promptings of speculative fancy have induced them to wander. The circuit of this debate has not been adhered to; but gentlemen have flown away, and plunged into the recesses of deep shadow, the shades of the past, and have traversed its declivities and its depths, and the gorges of the wilderness where no foot has ever dared to tread. They have wandered among the dead leaves and plants of an effete philosophy, and brought them here magnificently painted, and paraded them here before our eyes, but they have appeared to us only as ashes without life.

Gentlemen in this discussion may say what they please and claim what they please with reference to the course which their arguments